

BYLAWS
Community Food Initiatives (CFI)
Revisions proposed at the CFI Annual Membership
Meeting April 24, 2024

Article 1: Name

The name of the corporation is Community Food Initiatives (CFI)

Article 2. Purpose

The purposes for which said Corporation is formed are:

- A. To research, develop and implement educational food and gardening projects to benefit the Southeast Ohio, and the general public.
- B. To educate and assist low- income people and the general public about gardening and food- related issues.
- C. To conduct and support educational programs related to local food system development, diversification and resiliency as identified by members of the community.
- D. To encourage broad demographic participation in local food access.
- E. To assist in the establishment of an educational clearinghouse for the demonstration of techniques related to small-scale food production and consumption.
- F. And for any other purpose lawful or allowable to a non- profit corporation under the laws of the state of Ohio.

Article 3. Prohibited Activities

No part of the net earnings of CFI shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, its members, directors, officers, or others, or other private persons, except that CFI shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article 2 of these Bylaws.

Article 4. Membership

A. Qualifications

CFI shall have members that subscribe to the purposes and basic policies of CFI's ability to carry out its charitable and education purposes. No person shall hold more than one membership. CFI Board retains the right to refuse membership for just cause or activity that is contrary to the purposes of the organization. Any person who donates \$25 to the organization and who discloses their contact information to CFI shall be considered a member.

B. Rights of Membership

Members shall have the right to attend an annual membership meeting and shall receive annual updates on the finances of CFI. CFI may serve, benefit, or assist persons who are not members, but may restrict the provision of certain benefits, services, and assistance to members. No member shall be entitled to any dividend or any part of the income of CFI or to share in the distribution of CFI assets upon the dissolution of CFI.

Article 5. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors will consist of no fewer than 9 and no more than 15 Directors. The Governance Committee shall propose New Directors to be voted upon by the Board. The Directors shall solicit participation representative of the Southeast Ohio community. The terms of new directors shall begin immediately upon election. Board members shall collectively hold the power to amend these bylaws of the organization.

A. General Powers

- a. The Directors shall insure that the programs and activities of CFI are:
 - i. Consistent with the purposes of CFI.
 - ii. Legal and consistent with 501(c)(3) and state nonprofit laws and regulations.
 - iii. Implemented in a fiscally sound manner
- b. Working jointly with the staff the Directors shall develop long range plans for CFI and establish policies.
- c. The Directors shall:
 - i. Approve the acquisition of property and other assets.
 - ii. Authorize fund raising.
 - iii. Approve budgets.
 - iv. Establish personnel policies.
- d. The Directors shall monitor the finances and maintain an overview of the implementation of plans and policies.
- e. The Directors shall require the program staff to furnish project reports and other financial information.
- f. The Directors shall hire, fire, and annually evaluate the executive director.
- g. The Directors shall annually survey CFI membership and relevant stakeholders regarding the needs of the community and overall strategic vision of CFI.

B. Removal/ Resignation

a. Removal

i) A Director may be removed from the Board for specified conduct which is detrimental to the best interests of CFI. A Board Director who misses 2 meetings in a row without notification may be terminated by the Board. A two- thirds majority vote of the occupied seats is required to remove a Board Director.

b. Resignation

i) A Director may resign at any time by giving written notice submitted to the Executive Committee.

Article 6. Officers

There shall be a President, Secretary, Vice President and Treasurer elected by the Board each year. Vacancies among the officers shall be filled by the Directors at regular or special meetings of the Directors.

Article 7. Committees

The Board shall create committees and appoint members to these committees as the need arises. The Board will determine if these committees are to be standing, permanent committees, or temporary, ad hoc committees. There shall be an executive committee comprised of the following, the president, secretary, vice- president, treasurer, and director-at-large, that can take action for the directors between meetings of the board. Any meeting of the Executive Committee must consist of at least three of the above. The Executive Committee can take action for the directors between meetings of the board. Any decisions made by the executive committee will be reported to the entire board at the next meeting.

Article 8. Meetings

A. Members Annual Meeting

There shall be an Annual Meeting to be held (between January 1 and April 30) at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Notification of the Annual Meeting shall be sent to the members at least two weeks in advance. This notification will include an update of the finances of CFI from the Executive Director and a summary of changes to the bylaws from the Board of Directors.

B. Meetings of the Board of Directors

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall occur no less than four (4) times per year. Special Board of Directors meetings may be called by a majority of Directors provided that all Directors are given at least one day's notice. A quorum shall be reached with a simple majority vote, provided that a quorum is present. CFI defines a quorum as a simple majority of the current board of directors.

Article 9. (Deleted)

Article 10. Amendments (Deleted)

COMMUNITY FOOD INITIATIVES

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Board of Directors Candidate Recommendation Form

CFI board members are elected by the CFI membership. Each board member serves a 2 year term, attends a monthly board meeting and participates in committee work. Board members enjoy the benefits of contributing to the mission and vision of the organization, making new relationships and gaining professional experience. The Board of Directors provide guidance, oversight and evaluation of the organization, the program areas, and the Executive Director. Each board member brings their own skills, experience and interests and CFI strives to have a board that helps us deepen our connection with the community we serve, and build our efforts sustainably.

Email nominations to: cfi@communityfoodinitiatives.org

I recommend that the person listed below be considered for election to the Board of Directors:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Employer: _____
Business/Profession: _____
Degrees/Certifications: _____

Please mark what skills this person could offer.

Skills & Knowledge: Fundraising/Grant Writing Strategic Planning Legal Expertis
 Financial/Data Management Gardening/Agriculture Non-Profit Management Other: _____
 Public Relations

Influence: Local Community Media Policy
 Business Community
 University/Education Community
 Other: _____

Interests: School Systems/Education Food Security/Health
 Gardening/Agriculture _____ Other: _____

Other active community involvement or experience on other boards:

Current interest in the organization:

What Board activities would interest this person?

